

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. The applicant has amended claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 15, 20, 24, 26, 30, and 32. Claims 9, 10, 17, 25, and 33-34 have been cancelled.

Support for the amendment may be found in the specification, the drawings and the claims as originally filed. On account of the foregoing listed support for the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not add new matter.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

By virtue of the accompanying amendments to claims 1-34, it is respectfully submitted that these claims now comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 15, 24 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ruthlein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,698,905). However, the Examiner has also indicated that claims 10, 17, 25, and 34 would be allowable if written in an independent form including all limitations of their respective base claims. The base claims for claims 10, 17, 25, and 34 are claims 1, 15, 24, and 30, respectively. In the accompanying amendment, claims 10, 17, 25, and 34 have been cancelled, and the limitations of these claims have been incorporated into their respective base claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1,



15, 24, and 30, as amended, are allowable. Claims 2, 8, and 11-14 depend on claim 1, and as such, include all limitations of claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Further, given that claims 16, and 18-23 depend on claim 15, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Further, given that claims 26-29 depend on claim 24, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Finally, given claims 31 and 32 depend on claim 30, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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